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BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITIES ON THE LOWER LEVEL

Cooperation With Party Activists

In carrying out the resolution of the Third National Party Conference, the Turnovo Okrug party committee has been calling more frequently upon the okrug party activists for discussions and decisions on important problems.

To discover the more substantial organizational weaknesses in the okrug party organization and to take more appropriate and concrete resolutions for their radical improvement, the okrug committee's bureau sought the support of party activists in the okrug.

For that purpose, on 27 January 1951, the bureau heard a report on the organizational activity of the Dryanovo Okoliya party organization. The Turnovo Okrug party committee held its session at Dryanovo so that it could be attended by the entire bureau of the Dryanovo Okoliya party committee and its collaborators. For the discussion of the activity of the Dryanovo party organization, the Turnovo Okrug committee's bureau also brought to the session the comrades working in the party, trade union, and youth section of the Turnovo Okrug committee and the first secretaries and secretaries supervising the work of the party, trade union, and youth sections of the other okoliya party committees in the okrug. The session was attended by 47 persons.

The bureau did not pass any resolution at this session; but, on the basis of the report read and the discussions that followed it, the bureau ordered its party, trade union, and youth section to submit a proposal for the general improvement of organizational activity in the okrug.

The Turnovo Okrug committee held a similar session at Gorna Oryakhovitsa for the improvement of the work of the propaganda and agitation section. That session was attended by the first secretaries of the okoliya committees, the secretaries supervising the work of the propaganda and agitation section, and the activists engaged in propaganda and agitation work. For a better clarification of the problem at that session, reports were read by the secretary of the Gorna Oryakhovitsa city committee and by a representative of the Turnovo Okrug Committee.

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The Turnovo Okrug party organization has applied similar methods in discussing important problems during the past year. On 16 May 1950, the Turnovo Okrug committee discussed the problem of constructing the "Rositsa" Dam with the secretaries of the okoliya committees in the okrug and with the party activists from the dam. As a result of these discussions, the construction program, which was fulfilled by 50 percent in May, climbed up to 63 percent of fulfillment in June, 72.6 percent in July, and to more than 100 percent at the end of the year.

Later, the Turnovo Okrug committee joined with more than 200 party activists from the farms in the okrug in discussing the work of the party organizations within farm workers' cooperatives in their struggle to build and enlarge the farm workers' cooperatives.

This method of work -- going to the different organizations and discussing the important problems of party activity with party activists -- is taking roots in the Turnovo Okrug party committee and is being adopted by the okoliya committees at Gabrovo, Pavlikeni, and elsewhere.

The okrug and okoliya party committees in Turnovo Okrug do not summon the activists to instruct them on the basis of resolutions already adopted, but, rather, to hear their opinion. They confirm the resolutions on concrete problems at the following session.

The okrug committee seeks the advice of a large number of party activists, making the most appropriate decisions possible and, at the same time, constantly including the secretaries of okoliya committees in the solution of a number of problems affecting the whole okrug. In this way, the okoliya committee secretary's outlook is broadened and not confined to his okoliya. He becomes acquainted with all phases of activity in other okoliya committees, as well as with the party personnel of other okoliyas, and adopts the positive methods of their work. Thus, the secretary of a party committee of the chiefly industrial Gabrovo Okoliya not only specializes in and learns to direct party activity in industry, but also takes an active part in the deliberations and the work of party organizations at construction projects (in this case, at the "Rositsa" Dam and in farm workers' cooperatives).

The Turnovo Okrug party committee works constantly to enrich the experience of okoliya committee secretaries and secretaries from primary party organizations. The future personnel of the okrug committee are also trained in this manner. When called upon to work in the committee, they are briefed not only on the work in their okoliyas, but also, in part, on the work of the other okoliyas in the okrug. To a certain extent, they become acquainted with the personnel of the okrug committee.

The experience of the Turnovo Okrug committee in its work with party activists deserves to be looked into by the other okrug and okoliya committees in the country. At the Third National Party Conference, Vulko Chervenkov devoted considerable time to the topic of cooperation with party activists. Chervenkov informed the conference that "the basis of success in any party organization is the party activists and that the strength of any party organization lies in the indissoluble union of the party members, especially the party activists to whom it turns for counsel."

Shortcomings of Lower Party Organizations

The question of what steps the party organizations of the okrug should take to insure the proper execution of the decree of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party on measures to

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improve the organization of farm workers' cooperatives and to increase the productivity of labor and wages was submitted in the following manner for discussion and resolution by the Ruse Okrug party committee.

No report was read at the session, which described the reaction to the decree and what steps had been taken up to that moment by party organizations and the okoliya committee to execute its measures. Rather, the head of the Selskostonpanskiya Otdel (Agricultural Section), Comrade Petur Kolev, summed up the contents of the decree and proposed project resolutions.

The discussions developed as follows:

Titorenkov (first secretary of the okrug committee): "Tell us what has been done by the okoliya committees in connection with the decree?"

P. Kolev: "The okoliya committees have done nothing about it, except that some of them give courses for studying the decree. The party committees have studied the decree, but no concrete organizational work has been done."

Titorenkov: "Is anything being done in farm workers' cooperatives toward the organization of labor?"

P. Kolev: "Work is going on but we have no exact information."

Titorenkov: "Have you examined the protocols of the okoliya committees which have taken up this question?"

P. Kolev: "We have not examined them."

Titorenkov: "The result is that we cannot now make suitably accurate decisions, cannot see what has been done at different places, and cannot draw up concrete measures."

P. Kolev: "I am of the opinion that we must take the necessary measures for organizing the study of the decree and for explaining the same."

Titorenkov: "Let Comrade Marin Dobrev, secretary and supervisor of the work of the propaganda and agitation section, say how much has been done to explain this question."

M. Dobrev: "I cannot say anything about that."

Titorenkov: "What does the agitation division of the section do?"

M. Dobrev: "The division is occupied with explaining the decree, but we have no exact information as to what has been accomplished."

Comrades Ivan Stanev and Nenov recorded these words and pointed out that the question had not been properly prepared. The result was that the bureau was not in a position to make a decision on such a vital question, for it had not been acquainted with it and was forced to give only recommendations which were to be considered in subsequent preparation of the decision.

The Khaskovo Okoliya party committee has heard an even more formalistic "report" on the execution of the decree on state milk deliveries in 1951. The report given was only a page and a half long. The entire first page contained detailed figures on the number of cows and what quantities of milk were to be collected from the okoliya, according to the decree of the Council of Ministers. In the other half page of the report, it was explained that 30 of 34 dairies have been remodeled. On the question as to how the decree had been executed

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to that moment, the report mentioned only the following: "The fulfillment of the plan for processing cow milk was 7 percent by 10 February 1951" (it cannot be understood whether this percentage applies to the yearly, monthly or quarterly plan).

In this so-called report, no analysis of party influence on the fulfillment of milk deliveries has been made. No conclusions about the work in this direction have been reached, and no recommendations whatsoever have been made.

After the report was read, only three questions were asked; no discussion followed, and only one decision was adopted: "The report is approved."

Neither the reports nor the discussions show how much of the Council of Ministers' decree for state milk deliveries in Khaskovo Okoliya was fulfilled, what were the reasons for its lagging behind or for its successful fulfillment, what has been the participation of party and mass organizations, and what achievements and defects have been discovered in the mass political and organizational activity of party committees and organizations. No decisions which would assure the fulfillment of the assigned tasks were adopted.

Both cases show inadequacy in the work methods of these committees. It is obvious that the supervision of plan fulfillments is unsatisfactory and that the committees are not acquainted with the situation in different localities.

Courses for Agitators in Blagoevgrad Okrug

In accordance with the resolution of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party for organizing courses for agitators, the Blagoevgrad Okrug party committee's bureau drew up and adopted a concrete plan for the okrug organization. This plan was transmitted to the okoliya party committees by representatives of the okrug committee. The okoliya party committees' bureaus resolved to organize the courses and determine the number of persons who would attend training courses for lecturers, the centers in which the agitators from several adjoining localities would gather, and the duration of the different courses. Members of the bureaus and plenums of okoliya committees and administrative officers gave lectures in the preparatory course, as well as in the courses for agitators.

The 6-day and 10-day courses for training lecturers were terminated successfully around 1 March. The okoliya committees trained a large number of lecturers from cities. These will lecture in courses for village agitators. In the entire okrug, 242 persons attended courses for training lecturers. The courses at Gotse Delchev and Razlog were well organized and progressed satisfactorily.

Immediately after the termination of the courses for lecturers, work was begun in the courses for agitators. In Gotse Delchev Okoliya, the courses for agitators are held at 14 centers. The majority of courses began on 28 February. The courses at all centers were attended by 810 agitators. The titles of the first lectures were "The International and Internal Situation and the Fight for Peace" and "The Struggle for Executing the Spring-Sowing Plan." The lectures have been followed with great interest, and the listeners have taken an active part in the ensuing discussions.

There are, however, serious weaknesses in the courses for agitators in Blagoevgrad Okrug. Certain okoliya party committees, such as the Blagoevgrad and Petrich committees, have allowed comrades with inadequate political training to act as lecturers. A large number of the lecturers were not supplied

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with the necessary reference literature from the Biblioteka na Agitatora (Library of the Agitator). Certain courses for agitators, such as those in Gurmen, Kovachevitsa, and Obidin, are not attended by a sufficient number of agitators.

Appreciating the great importance of the ideological and political education of agitators, as well as the importance of increasing the ideological level of political agitation and its future development, the okrug party committee supervises and assists the okoliya committees in conducting courses. There can be no doubt that the successful conduct of the courses will contribute toward improving the working methods of village party organizations, toward increasing the enthusiasm of the working peasant masses in the okrug, and toward their greater participation in the socialist transformation of the village.

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